Revival of FACT

2530. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had given an assurance to the delegation led by the Kerala Chief Minister on 15th December, 1998 that a High Power Committee would be constituted to look into the revival of FACT;

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India have granted the following financial reliefs to the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT):

(i) Waiver of outstanding interest amounting to Rs. 226.88 crore for the period from 1998-99 to 2001-02 on the OECF loan drawn from the Government of India by FACT for its Ammonia Project at Udyogamandal.

(ii) Moratorium on principal repayment of FACT up to 31.3.2002 on the balance OECF loan amounting to Rs. 378.20 crore drawn from Government of India.

(iii) Waiving levy of penal interest on FACT for past defaults in repayment of principal and interest of the OECF loan after assistance as at (i) & (ii) above being granted.

Fertilizer subsidy coupons to farmers

2531. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministerial group headed by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission is seriously considering a proposal to issue fertilizer subsidy coupons to farmers or to provide cash subsidy against Kisan cards;

(b) if so, whether this question was taken up by the Ministerial Group in the month of July, 2002;

(c) whether any decision in this regard has been considered by the Group; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The Group of Ministers (GOM), headed by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, is examining the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) on the formulation of a new Pricing Policy for urea units. One of the recommendations of ERC is to adopt a dual pricing system by issuing fertilizer coupons to poor farmers. This recommendation of ERC along with similar recommendations received from other quarters is under consideration of the GOM.

Plastic Factories in Sarai Basti, Delhi

2532. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories in the Sarai Basti, Old Rohtak Road, Delhi-35 area;

(b) the number of plastic factories out of those;

(c) whether it is a non-conforming Industrial Area;

(d) whether it is a fact that the polluting plastic factories have been banned;

(e) whether a representation has been made by the welfare Association, Sarai Basti, Delhi-35, recently; and

(f) if so, what action has been taken in the matter; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected.

(d) Industrial units manufacturing plastic products/PVC products fall under the ambit of the Supreme Court's Orders in CWP No. 4677/85 regarding shifting of industries from residential areas/zones.